Outside the dean's office the pulse of the College of Engineering was pounding. Engineers' Week was about to begin. Companies were interviewing seniors. Academic work of the college was mounting toward 8-week tests.

In this atmosphere, Dean W. H. Carson began to sketch that portion of his life that was closely related to the College of Engineering:

I graduated from Wisconsin in 1923. I'm a native Texan, you know, but I took a job with Western Electric in Chicago when I graduated. I didn't like big city life. I came from East Texas and I wanted to get back home. I wrote to the University of Wisconsin, inquiring about jobs in Texas. They said they didn't have anything in Texas but there was an opening at the University of Oklahoma due to a leave of absence granted a member of the Engineering faculty. I applied for the job and got it. Before the leave of absence was ended the professor...
resigned and I was hired on a permanent basis in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

The Engineering student body in 1924 was small. Probably not more than 500. There were only 19 majors in mechanical engineering at the time. I was assigned a teaching load of 18 credit hours. We now consider 12 as a normal load. The work days were long and weekends were required for grading papers.

I was made director of the School of Mechanical Engineering a few years later and was named director of the School of Petroleum Engineering in 1933 in addition. I was also supervisor of shops. When I was appointed dean of the college in 1936, I was the youngest dean on the campus, and am now the oldest in point of service.

I mentioned that in 1924 the enrollment in the college was approximately 500. It showed a steady increase until World War II and immediately after the war, enrollment reached its peak of 3,400. In the early fifties it dropped off to about 1,700 and then the steady increase we are experiencing now began. Enrollment for the first semester this year was 2,669. Engineering is the second largest college on the campus (Arts and Sciences is first) and has the largest male enrollment of any college at O.U. As you can see, we are building back to our enrollment peak and there is no end in sight. There will be continuing increases in enrollment since the demand for engineers is constantly increasing.

One of our major problems in the college is the fact that our faculty scale is low. It is unfortunate, but true, that some faculty members who have been here several years receive no more than some new graduates do from industry.

We must realize we're educating professional people in a highly competitive, technical field. Funds must be forthcoming from some source to increase faculty pay. At the moment we are competing with industry and with other colleges for faculty. Most of the competing colleges have a higher pay scale than ours.

How we have been able to retain our present faculty, I don't know. We do have a faculty strong in loyalty to the college and in teaching and counseling students. We have a fine student-teacher relationship.

We are short on equipment and floor space. We are trying to develop a good graduate program, but in many instances it is necessary for graduate students to set up work in undergraduate laboratories. It is not conducive to accomplishing the best work. We need additional undergraduate laboratory space. The only cure for our floor space ills is a new building or a large addition to the main Engineering Building. We are

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